

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-20

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O R 112240Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1834

INFO USCINCSO

DIA/DOD WASHDC

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: SITREP. NO. 18: LABOR AND POLITICAL CONFRONTATION WITH
GOVERNMENT

1. THIS MORNING SEN MARTIARENA, JUSTICIALISTA BLOC LEADER IN SENATE, RESIGNED HIS POST IN PROTEST OVER SENATE'S DEFYING MRS. PERON ON SUCCESSION LAW AND ELECTION OF NEW PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT. RESIGNATION WAS LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER SUPPORT FOR MRS. PERON IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. MARTIARENA'S GESTURE HAD LITTLE EFFECT. SOON AFTER, PERONIST BLOC IN CHAMBER VOTES BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO SUPPORT SENATE ACTION ON SUCCESSION BILL. BILL, THEREFORE, WILL DOUBTLESS PASS THIS AFTERNOON. SIZE OF DEFEAT MAY ALSO SEAL FATE OF LASTIRI WHO LOBBYED HARD FOR MRS. PERON'S POSITION.

2. ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF ADMINISTRATION'S SLIPPAGE IN CONGRESS WAS SEEN IN INTRODUCTION BY PERONIST CONGRESSMAN, JESUS PORTO, OF AN IMPEACHMENT RESOLUTION AGAINST LOPEZ
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REGA. PORTO CITED LIBYAN OIL DEAL AND LOPEZ REGA'S

ALLEGED ROLE IN AAA AS GROUNDS FOR IMPEACHMENT.
CRISIS MAY BE RESOLVED BEFORE PORTO'S MOVE CAN HAVE
EFFECT, BUT HIS ACTION DOES HAVE STRONG SYMPATHY IN CONGRESS.
PORTO, AFTER INTRODUCING MEASURE, INVITED NEWSMEN TO HIS
FUNERAL.

3. ARMY CINCLAPLANE ET WITH ARMY COMMANDERS FOR THREE
HOURS YESTERDAY THEN WENT TO FURTHER MEETING WITH AIR
FORCE AND NAVY CINCS. AFTER CINCS MET THEY HAD STATE-
MENT ISSUED WHICH DENIED THEY HAD ASKED MRS. PERON TO
OUST ANY MINISTER. STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO
PRESERVE CINCS HANDS OFF PUBLIC STANCE AND DOES NOT REPRESENT
SHIFT IN THEIR ANTI-LOPEZ REGA STANCE.

4. AT 1 PM TODAY GOA NOTIFIED TV TO STADBY FOR STATEMENT
BY MRS. PERON. AT APPROXIMATELY 12 SHE HAD MEETING WITH
ARMY CINC LAPLANE AND THEN DEPARTED CASA ROSADA WITHOUT
MAKING STATEMENT. THIS LED TO IMMEDIATE SPECULATION
THAT CERTAIN OF CABINET CHANGES SHE HAD PLANNED TO
ANNOUNCE WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE AND HAD TO BE RECONSIDERED.

5. AT APPROXIMATELY 2:15 PM PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE
ANNOUNCED THAT LOPEZ REGA'S RESIGNATION AS SOCIAL WELFARE
MINISTER AND PRIVATE SECRETARY HAD BEEN ACCEPTED.

6. NEW CABINET IS AS FOLLOWS: FOREIGN AFFAIRS--VIGNES,
NO CHANGE; ECONOMY--RODRIGO, NO CHANGE; EDUCATION--
IVANISSEVICH, NO CHANGE; LABOR--CONDITI, NO CHANGE;
INTERIOR--ANTONIO BENITEZ MOVES FROM JUSTICE TO REPLACE
ROCAMORA; DEFENSE--JORGE GARRIDO, PRESENTLY CHIEF PUBLIC
NOTARY, REPLACES SAVINO; JUSTICE--ERNESTO CORVALAN
NANCLARES REPLACES BENITEZ; CARLOS VILLONE MOVES UP
FROM SENIOR POSITION IN SOCIAL WELFARE TO MINISTER
REPLACING LOPEZ REGA.

7. COMMENT: VILLONE IS A LOPEZ REGISTA, SO ARE VIGNES,
RODRIGO AND CONDITI. CHANGES, THEREFORE, MAY BE MORE
COSMETIC THAN REAL. OTHERS, WITH EXCEPTION OF BENITEZ,
APPEAR TO BE POLITICAL LIGHTWEIGHTS. LOPEZ REGA
OPPONENTS FEAR HE MAY ATTEMPT TO RUN THINGS FROM
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BEHIND SCENES, WORKING THROUGH HIS PEOPLE IN THE
CABINET AND THROUGH MRS. PERON. FURTHER, WHILE HE
HAS RESIGNED AS PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY, IT IS NOT
CLEAR THAT HE HAS RESIGNED AS HER PERSONAL SECRETARY AS
WELL. IN SHORT, CHANGES ARE NOT LIKELY TO SATISFY OPPONENTS.
HILL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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